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with it. With these are a few specimens of *A. Trichomanes* with large oblong pinnæ, much as in specimens from Bermuda and tropical America.

17. ***Pteris Cretica*, L.** The Florida plant, as exemplified in Capt. Smith's specimens, is identical with the Mediterranean species, and has the same "firm coriaceous-membranaceous" texture of the pinnæ. This fern has not been gathered in quantity before for several years, Mr. Shockley's specimens being few, and mostly without the rhizoma.

18. ***Pteris serrulata*, L. fil.**—This fern is announced in Mr. Davenport's new "Catalogue of the Davenport Herbarium of North American Ferns." It was discovered near Mobile, Alabama, by Mr. Charles Mohr about a year ago, and first identified by Mr. Davenport. Mr. Mohr has also favored me with specimens, but I preferred to say nothing about the discovery till Mr. Davenport should first make it public. I learn from Professor Lewis R. Gibbes, that a *Pteris* has sowed itself and grown abundantly on the walls of the College at Charleston, South Carolina. It will be very interesting to know whether this is *Pteris Cretica* or *Pteris serrulata*. That a fern may become an introduced plant is proved not only by the instance described by Mr. Davenport at the end of his most valuable and interesting Catalogue, but by the fact reported in the *London Times* that *Platyserium alcinorne* has appeared wild in at least three places in England and Wales, the last time in the Cader Idris Mountains.

19. ***Asplenium ebeneum*, var. *proliferum*.**—Rachis proliferous near the base of the frond. Many tropical *Asplenias* are known to be proliferous, but with the exception as *A. ebenoides* proliferous forms have not been hitherto noticed in the United States. Capt. Smith collected a few specimens of *A. ebeneum* near Ocala; and, looking at them closely, I find as many as three fronds with proliferous buds on the rachis just by the lowest pinnæ. One frond has three such buds, and from them young fronds one or two inches long have been produced. I find one frond, which I collected many years ago in Florida, similarly proliferous, though the young fronds have not shown themselves.

20. ***Ophioglossum vulgatum*, Plumier.** This plant, whether Fern or only Fern-ally, has been found again in Florida, this time near Manatee, and by the indefatigable Dr. Garber. His specimens are much the finest yet gathered in the United States. Dr. Chapman's original discovery was first noticed in the *TORREY CLUB BULLETIN* of January, 1876, which notice was accidentally overlooked by Capt. Smith in his recent paper in the *Botanical Gazette*.

D. C. E.

§ 307. **United States Species of *Lycoperdon*.**—By Chas. H. Peck, A.M. (Read before the Albany Institute, Feb. 4, 1879. Pamphlet, pp. 34.) A revision of the American species of the genus *Lycoperdon* (*Anglicè* "puff-balls") has long been needed, inasmuch as the literature of the subject is somewhat scattered, and in many cases not easily accessible to the student. This work has at length been ably accomplished by Mr. Peck, in the monograph before us. The entire

number of species thus far known to inhabit the United States, according to the author, is 23; and of each of these he gives an English diagnosis, followed by copious notes drawn from his own observations. It is perhaps known to Mr. Peck's correspondents that he has been devoting considerable attention to this genus for several years, and through his own collections, and from specimens communicated by friends, he has been enabled to study 21 of the species described (many of them variable) from the plants themselves. Four of the species, *L. coloratum*, Pk., *L. subincarnatum*, Pk., *L. Frostii*, Pk., and *L. glabellum*, Pk., are new to science and described here for the first time. Sixteen of the species enumerated are known to be inhabitants of New York State. Among the more important changes that have been made in the genus we note the following: *Lycoperdon echinatum*, Pers., is again raised to the rank of a distinct species from a variety of *L. gemmatum* to which it had been reduced by Fries; *L. molle*, Pers., which Fries had also made a variety of *gemmatum* under the name of *furfuraceum*, is here also considered a good species, and enumerated as such; *L. separans* Pk., (of the 26th Regent's Report) is here included under *L. Wrightii*, B. & C., as a mere variety of that species; *L. albo-purpureum*, Frost (*Borista cyathiformis* of the 23d Regents' Report) is decided to be the same as *L. cyathiforme*, Bosc.—a name which has the priority; finally, *L. calvescens*, B. & C., and *L. cruciatum* Rostk., although for the present admitted as species, are thought by Mr. Peck to be mere varieties of the very protean *L. Wrightii*, B. & C., and this opinion is formed from an examination of authenticated dried specimens. In conclusion, the author states that his *L. Warnei* has turned out to be a *Podaxon*, and must hereafter be called *P. Warnei* Pk.

Mr. Peck remarks that "puff-balls" are useful because they are edible. None of the species are considered dangerous or even hurtful, yet some are so small and so scarce that they are not of much value for food. As an article of food they have this advantage over mushrooms; they are not often infested by insects or their larvae, and there is scarcely any possibility of mistaking deleterious species for them." He gives the names of six species, the edible qualities of which he has tested, but two of them (*L. gemmatum*, and *L. pyriforme*) he does not recommend, since they are not well flavored.

We trust the time is not far distant when we shall have further monographs of the fungi from so competent a pen as that of Mr. Peck; certainly there is no need of importing all work of this kind from foreign countries.

W. R. G.

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The Club meets regularly the second Tuesday of the month in the Herbarium, Columbia College at 7:30 P. M. Botanists are invited to attend. DR. THURBER the President of the Club may be found at 245 Broadway.